

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2018/19 November Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

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<b>Training Officer and Welfare Officer</b> Gareth Heighes	<b>Supplies Officer ;</b> Callum Peter callumpeter@gmail.com 07951 425179
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# The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 5th November

Meadow Sports Football Club  
Loop Rd Playing Fields, Loop Rd, Kingfield,  
Woking  
Surrey GU22 9BQ

## AGENDA

- ◆ **7.30 Academy Meeting**
- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ◆ **Guest Speaker**



**Simon Parbury**

***“ Safe refereeing ; prevention rather than cure “***

- ◆ **Society Business**
- ◆ **10pm Close**

**The next meeting will our Christmas Dinner  
On 10th December  
The deadline for December Warbler is  
Friday 30th November**

*The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the  
Society or its' Committee*

# From the Chair

Hi Everyone,

Are you looking for a new challenge? Do you think you could inspire the future of Refereeing? How about becoming a tutor helper on our new Referees courses? It's an opportunity to learn some new skills and give something back; if you're interested speak to me or any of the other tutors (Andy Bennett, Callum Peter, Jack Oxenham, Gareth Heighes and Vince Penfold) we have and join us on our next course in February and see what it's all about.

So the clocks have gone back and the last couple of days saw winter starting to kick in and the weather is definitely changing! Make sure you take extra time to prepare for your games and allow for the change in the ground condition.

The County cup and League cup competitions are now in starting to happen, so please make sure you are aware of the individual competition rules and try not to mix them up, because if you make an error the game may need to be replayed and you may find you get some forced time off from County FA.

Don't forget our December meeting is our annual dinner at Hoebridge Golf Centre and the menu is available on the website, and on page 6 of this issue.

Book your place now and come along and enjoy a great evening

Enjoy your games and see you soon

**Pat**



## Membership and Accounts

<b>2018/19 Membership</b>
<b>72 Full Members</b>
<b>7 Friends</b>
<b>1 Affiliate Member</b>
<b>92 Referees trained in 2017/2018</b>
<b>20 Referees trained in 2018/2019</b>

<b>2018 Current Status</b>	
<b>General</b>	<b>£2,538.24</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>£214.35</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>£300.00</b>
<b>Training Fund</b>	<b>£253.27</b>
<b>Youth Fund</b>	<b>£113.50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,419.36</b>

## Academy News

For any recently qualified referees or those going for promotion, our Academy provides a safe, friendly and informal environment to hone your skills. So why not come along and see what your Referees' Society can do for you!

The programme for the season looks like this

- ◆ 5th November Law 11 - Offside
- ◆ 10th December - No Academy - Society Christmas Dinner
- ◆ 7th January - Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct Part 1
- ◆ 4th February - Practical Session - Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct Part 2  
( Practical Application)
- ◆ 4th March - Law 10 - Determining the Outcome of a Match  
( Cup Final Preparation)
- ◆ 1st April - Practical Session - Assistant Refereeing and 4th Official work-shop (including Offside Recognition )
- ◆ 13th May - End of Season Review / Celebration of Achievement.

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Hi All

Firstly Welcome to the November Academy Meeting, the last of 2018.

It might be time to start digging out the extra layers as the cold winter weather is starting to make a come back.

Welcome to new Academy Member James and his father who joined our meetings for the last couple of months.

The topic of the evening will be Law 11 "Offside"

**Gareth**



# **Woking RA Christmas Dinner**

**Monday 10th December, 7.30 pm for 8 pm.  
Hoebridge Golf Centre, Old Woking, GU22 8JH**

## **STARTERS**

Prawn Tian with Chives & Capers topped with Smoked Salmon, Dill Mayonnaise  
& a Ciabatta Crisp

or

Duck & Orange Pâté with Toasted Brioche & Fruit Chutney

or

Winter Vegetable Soup

## **MAINS**

Roasted Turkey Breast with Sage & Cranberry Stuffing, Rosemary infused  
Roasted Potatoes, Chipolata Sausage & Pan Gravy.

or

Baked Salmon Fillet topped with an Herb Crumb served with a Citrus Butter  
Sauce & Buttered Potatoes

Both accompanied with Roasted Carrots & Parsnips, Buttered Sprouts & Peas

or

Mushroom, Cranberry & Brie Puff Pastry Wellington with a Creamy Mushroom  
Sauce & Buttered Potatoes

## **DESSERTS**

Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce.

or

Chocolate Tart with Orange Crème Anglais.

or

A selection of Cheeses with Biscuits & Fruit Chutney (Cranberry Wensleydale, Stil-  
ton & Cave aged Cheddar)

## **Coffee & Mince pies**

**Plus**

***Martin's festive Christmas Quiz***

***Jacko's Never Ending Raffle***

***Spin2Win Game***

***"Ref'd assured it will be a good night - Yule be crackers not to go" !!***

**Cost £25 per person. (same as last year)**

Cheques payable to Bryan Jackson made out to Woking RA.

Or Bank Transfer to a/c 02710897 sort code 30 94 77

**Menu selection choices by 30th Nov to**

**[martin.read5@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.read5@btinternet.com)**

***Dress Smart Casual***

## Just a Sec!

- ◆ **Mentors.** Tim Lawrence has now arranged for a Referee Developer Workshop to be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 7pm, at County FA Dorking. The course will be run by Richard Glynn-Jones from the FA. and is for anyone interested in becoming a referee mentor, coach or observer. Following the workshop it is our intention to establish a mentoring scheme within the Society to support our newly qualified referees. If you've not already contacted me then please let me know if you'd like to attend.
- ◆ **Guest Speaker.** Our guest this month is Simon Parbury, a level 4 referee, mentor and coach with Berks and Bucks FA. His talk will be on "Safe refereeing: prevention rather than cure." We look forward to extending a warm Woking welcome to Simon.
- ◆ **Christmas Dinner.** Have you got your menu choices off to Martin yet? Wives and partners are of course more than welcome. Unfortunately our mystery guest has had to pull out due to work commitments but has promised to be along next year. However this will not detract I'm sure from what once again promises to be a great evening.

## Dates for your Diary 2018/19

5th November	<b>Society Meeting - Simon Parbury Secretary Chiltern RA</b>
10th December	Society Christmas Dinner - Hoebridge Golf Centre
7th January	Society Meeting - Aaron Farmer
4th February	Society Meeting - Paul Howard & David Coote
4th March	Society Meeting and AGM - Steve Worsley
1st April	Society Meeting - TBA
13th May	Society Meeting - Keith Hiller aka "Willy Red Card"
17th May	Eve of Final Rally– Bentley Priory, Stanmore Middlesex
6th and 7th July	RA Development Weekend– Venue TBA

## Last Month's Meeting

Vice Chairman Colin opened the meeting and welcomed our guest speaker Tim Lawrence, along with 22 members of the Society.

Apologies had been received from Vince Penfold, Pat Bakhuizen, Brian Reader, Bill Collis and Tony Loveridge.

We kicked off with Tim presenting Paul "come into my office" Gorriinge with his award from Surrey FA for 25 years service as a referee.

In addition Bryan presented a commemorative engraved glass beer mug, accompanied by 6 bottles of craft ales to Dave Cooper for his 50 years of membership of the Referees Association. Congratulations to both members

Tim's presentation was the laws concerning the soon to be extended Temporary Dismissals for Dissent, commonly known as the Sin Bin Laws.

Most of the reasoning behind the decision to extend the law to include all leagues up to and including step 7 (eg Surrey Elite) was included in last month's Warbler, along with a table explaining the different scenarios and the consequences there of.

Although the Sin Bins won't be coming into effect for many leagues this season it will continue in the Surrey Primary League and very importantly also applies in three of the Surrey County Cup Competitions namely ; Under 18 Youth, U18 Midweek and U21 Cup.

Tim stressed the importance of reporting C2 (Dissent) SB (sin bin) on the whole game system as the County then receive a £10 admin re-imburement from the FA. Interestingly a new addition this season is that a player receiving a 2nd sin bin in the same game will be fined £25 and banned for 1 month.

Tim explained that only referees who had attended one of his presentations would be appointed to these games and I (Mac) was asked to send him a copy of our attendance sheet for this meeting.

Colin thanked Tim for his talk and clarification regarding the Sin Bin Laws and presented him with the customary bottles of wine.

Following Tim's presentation and the raffle, Andy Bennett led an interesting discussion over the points law regarding a player committing a foul, worthy of a caution, but the referee then playing an advantage. Then before play had been stopped the same player once more became involved in play. (*One for "what would you do next" page ? Ed*)

Stephen Brown asked the question "Has anyone ever seen a Premier Game where the sides have changed ends following the coin toss" The answer was "No" This then led to a discussion as to the best way of managing the toss.

The meeting closed at 10pm  
( see pics on page 16)

# This Month's Speaker

## Simon Parbury



*Above. Simon Parbury (middle), leads the officiating team in a recent game between Chesham United and Wycombe Wanderers XI.*

Date qualified: November 2004

Level 4 since 2011

Leagues as referee: Hellenic, Allied Counties

Leagues as assistant referee: Southern and Isthmian League

Career highlights:

20/10/12: FA Cup 4<sup>th</sup> Qualifying Round (AR): South Park v Met Police

3/12/16: Conference South (AR): Wealdstone v East Thurrock

25/7/17: BBFA Senior Cup Final (AR): Maidenhead United v Hungerford Town

Other roles in football:

Secretary of Chiltern District Referees Society

Referee mentor and coach (BBFA)

Profession: Secondary school teacher/ director of cricket.

The subject of my talk will be

**“Safe refereeing: prevention rather than cure.”**

## **Goalkeepers must be allowed to clear without hindrance**

At the monthly meeting of Reading referees there was a discussion on a very unusual incident during the Cardiff versus Bournemouth Championship game.

The Cardiff goalkeeper had the ball in his hands after a Bournemouth attack. All the other players had made their way back up the field of play, except Callum Wilson of Bournemouth who stood on the edge of Cardiff's penalty area.

Simon Moore, the Cardiff goalkeeper ran towards Wilson before kicking the ball, hitting Wilson in the back. The ball rebounded onto the Cardiff crossbar back into play and Wilson following up put it into the goal.

Not only did referee Lee Mason disallow the goal but he also showed Wilson a yellow card.

Almost every referee in the room said they would have allowed the goal to stand but I would first of all like to look at the process by which Mason would have made his decision.

Football lawmakers want to get the ball back in play as soon as possible, once the goalkeeper has control of the ball.

For this reason the law states that, if goalkeeper holds the ball for more than six seconds, the referee will award an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

Also to speed up play, the Law makes it an offence, punishable by an indirect free, if a player, in the opinion of the referee, prevents the goalkeeper releasing the ball.

If the player does this in a dangerous manner, kicking or attempting to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in process of releasing it, this should be treated more seriously, perhaps with a yellow card.

The Law also says a goalkeeper may not be challenged whilst he has control of the ball, which is not only when he has the ball within his hands but also when he is laying on it or the ball is in his outstretched hand or he is bouncing it on the ground or throwing it in the air.

So I think Mason's thinking behind his decision can be understood but we have to ask, did Wilson breach any of this Law?

All he did was to stand still several yards in front of the goalkeeper. In the Laws of the Game it says all players have a right to their position on the field of play. You sometimes see this when a player runs into an opponent who has not moved and then appeals for the free kick.

All this changes if the opponent should move into the way of the player, but Wilson didn't do that, he remained where he stood.

The question might be asked, why did he stand there at all and not retreat along with his team mates?

I can't answer for Wilson of course but players often remain in the vicinity in case the goalkeeper should release the ball by rolling it along the ground, enabling him to take the ball a little further up the field, to gain more distance on his kick. The player is then entitled to challenge the goalkeeper for the ball.

My other point is that Simon Moore, the Cardiff goalkeeper didn't have to go anywhere near Wilson.

With an empty penalty area he could have chosen another route to make his kick.

By running towards Wilson and then kicking the ball directly at him, in my opinion he laid himself open to giving away a free kick, even a penalty.

When the select referees get together for their fortnightly training sessions, they look at videos of controversial decisions they have made in the past two weeks and comment on each other's decisions.

I would love to know what their views were on this incident and whether they would have agreed with our local referees.

*Dick Sawdon Smith* Writing in Get Reading March 2015

(Reading RA)

## Letters to the Editor

Hello Mac,

I was with my good lady in a shop at the weekend and bumped into the Woking under 19 No 11 who I gave a card to in the final seconds on Wednesday. He came up to me and said how sorry he was for his actions. He told me that after the game he was thinking how silly his comments were plus we all had a good game. Maybe his manager had a go at him but if he has learnt that's a first!

Regards

**Paul Gorringe .**

*(I was running line for Paul when he cautioned a couple of Woking players for dissent—he'd just awarded a penalty against them. Mac )*

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Hi Mac,

Just devoted a few minutes to browse through the October Warbler.

I like your article on the Full Time Notifications! Now you know what I receive ,times **that** by the number of fixtures!

Of the 48 scheduled U16/U18's Cup games that Sunday:

....17 were awarded as one of the teams had either folded since start of the season, or hadn't registered enough players!

...of the 31 remaining, 20 were washed out!

...of the 11 rescheduled to **the following Sunday**,...another 3 were awarded!

..and every update triggers an email from that "Do Not Reply" bloke !

Regards

**Bob Dick**

## Hostile players, irate fans and decisions that haunt you: who'd be a football ref?

From the horror of making a mistake to the teams that came armed with knives, football's unsung heroes share their stories.

by [Michael Hann](#) writing in The Guardian

It is a wet Saturday morning in September, the kind when the prickling heat of August feels a distant memory. In Regent's Park in London, a man in a black shirt, shorts and socks jogs over to a group of parents watching their 14-year-olds warm up in the drizzle. He's clutching two small flags, each in fluorescent yellow and orange. "I need two linesmen," he says. Technically, he should say "assistant referees", but we all know what he means.

I step forward. A few days earlier, I had met one of Britain's leading assistant referees – whose decisions have seen him jeered from the stands and mocked in the House of Commons. This might give me an inkling of what his job entails.

I try to remember what he told me: when one team is attacking my half, I don't watch the ball; I look across the pitch, along the line of the last defender, to see if any attacking player is about to run offside. I sprint up and down the touchline, level with that last defender, but also look up and down my own touchline to see if the ball is going out of play. And I have to keep an eye on the progress of the game generally, to see if there's anything I need to signal to the referee.

I'm looking in three directions at once, while sprinting. So rather than staying behind the touchline, I'm zigzagging on and off the pitch. At least there are only a couple of dozen people watching, and no one's throwing bottles.

As I run past the attacking team's substitutes, I hear one moan: "This is the worse lino I've ever seen." I flag an attacker offside and the coach shouts as I run past: "He has to be offside when the ball is played, not when he gets the ball!"

I know, I say, and he was.

"You're supposed to be in line!"

I know, I say, and I was.

"You're not even a proper linesman."

I know, I say, and I'm only doing it so your sons can have a game, so maybe stop giving me shit, eh? Especially as your lot are already winning 5-0.

Things are not helped when one of the defending team shouts, "Well done, lino, great call!" – largely because he's my son.

The drizzle descends. I get wetter and wetter. The longer the game goes on, the more I pray for it to end. It's hard, really hard. And I'm not even the referee.

Referees have long been the most reviled people in football. From children's matches, where under-8s re-enact the cheating of the professional game, to the Premier League, where tens of thousands of people gather to sing, to the tune of Blue Moon, "Shit ref / You're just another shit ref", to be a match official is to be, in the vernacular of football, "the bastard in the black". And yet the UK has thousands of them, paid a pittance to get shouted at by hungover parents, or picked apart on social media, or found wanting by TV pundits. They turn out in rain, snow or sun, with none of the glory you get from playing.

What is it like to spend your weekends travelling to out-of-the-way grounds to referee a game only 125 people care about? Why get out of bed on a Sunday morning to keep order among 22 blokes who smell of last night's beer?

If today's levels of online abuse can seem disproportionate, it was ever thus. In Yorkshire, they still curse the name of Ray Tinkler, the referee who in April 1971 allowed West Bromwich Albion to score a goal Leeds United believed cost them the league title; fans – not hooligans, but irate middle-aged men in raincoats – invaded the pitch. It didn't matter that Tinkler's decision was right. In January 2000, a snarling pack of Manchester United players led by Roy Keane surrounded Andy D'Urso after he awarded Middlesbrough a penalty at Old Trafford. In March 2005, Swedish referee Anders Frisk retired early when his family received death threats after José Mourinho, then Chelsea's manager, accused him of favouring Barcelona in a Champions League game. And in May this year, a match between two London amateur teams ended with the referee being chased around the pitch, knocked down and kicked by players and spectators. Just days ago, a linesman in a game between Rangers and Livingston had his head cut open by an object thrown from the crowd.

Why do referees do it? Because they love football, of course. Sometimes it's also because they weren't good enough as players: "One of my old managers told me I'd be a good referee," remembers Premier League referee Chris Kavanagh, "which was his way of saying my playing days were over." Sometimes it's because they want to see a different side of the game: Abdulkadir Arshe, the ref who got me running the line in Regent's Park, was a youth team coach – he remembers with horror telling referees they didn't know what they were doing – and took the FA course after reffing a few casual games. Sometimes it's a way of prolonging the experience of being at the top of football: 38-year-old Cheryl Foster played 63 times for Wales, more than any other female player, and spent nine years with Liverpool. When she retired from playing, she wanted to stay in the game and is now on the Fifa list, eligible to referee the biggest matches in the women's game; in August she became the first woman to take charge of a men's Welsh Premier League game. The rest of the time, she's a PE teacher and deputy head; school will take priority until the October half-term.

"As a player, you think you know quite a lot about the game," she says. "And you do. But as a referee you learn lots more little things. Mainly positioning. As a striker I stayed in one part of the pitch, whereas a referee has to be like a box-to-box midfielder. I do more fitness work now than when I was a player – in the last five weeks I've been fitness tested five times." As a Fifa referee, she is sent stringent targets and a training programme ("which I follow religiously").

She passed her test in December 2013 and the next month was an assistant referee in the men's Welsh National League – a demanding start. "It was the physical nature I noticed," she says. In women's football, "the ball is played and passed a lot more"; male players clattered into whoever was in possession. Foster referees the way she would have wanted to be refereed. "I talk to players as much as I can and explain decisions. If I haven't seen something, I'll say so, calmly. I even smile. I don't want to seem unapproachable – I've been on the receiving end, especially from male referees. You'd ask a question and get a hand gesture – 'Stay away, I'm not talking.' It adds to the frustration."

The first steps into refereeing can be terrifying. First, there's the prospect of having to manage people. Second, the sense of responsibility – that a mistake can sway the destiny of a game. Third, the simple fear of retribution. At Ross's first game – an under-13s match – he let play go ahead despite the pitch being dangerously frozen, then forgot what he had learned and baffled players by giving rugby signals. Ryan Atkin, 33, who referees at National League level (one step below the Football League), forgot to bring his whistle to his first match in a Devon league. "The first half of the game was reffed with me using my voice," he says. "My grandfather found me a whistle for the second half.

"Until you're experienced, it's scary," Atkin says of those first few times in charge. "That's especially true in parks football, which can be very lonely. You're often on your own, potentially managing 30 players and coaches, who might not appreciate what you're doing and the number of decisions you make."

In the parks, there are things you can't prepare for. Ashley Hickson-Lovence qualified as a referee at 16, and after a bad tackle in a south London league game two years later, found the teams confronting each other not with the usual pushing and shoving – what commentators call "handbags" – but with knives. "Someone was stabbed in the face. It went into the car park. I ran for cover and called the police, who got there in four minutes. I had to downplay that to my family – my mum had never been keen on me refereeing." Reflecting on the fight now, Hickson-Lovence has a very refereeish reaction: "I think I learned a lesson." That it's worth checking how well-armed teams are? "That I was too inclined to let games flow." If he'd clamped down on the tackles, he thinks, no one would have felt the need for knives. Nine years later he is still refereeing, and writing a PhD on the early life of the English ref Uriah Rennie.

You might expect the top levels of the game to be the hardest to run: there is so much more at stake; the crowds are vast; the scrutiny is intense. But the roar of a stadium full of people can be too loud for any individual insult to matter. "The crowd is just background noise in the Premier League," Kavanagh says. "We're so focused on talking to each other" – officials wear earpieces and microphones – "and working as a team, we only pick up a little."

But the bigger difference comes in the standard of play. Top-level teams are not interested in anything that gets in the way of winning, and moaning at the ref isn't a priority, regardless of what TV pictures suggest. This is not always the case lower down the leagues, particularly where amateur and semi-professional football merges. There also tend to be just enough people watching – maybe 50 or 60 – to make everything they say to the officials very audible, and potentially hurtful.

This is where officials get the worst abuse, Ross says. "I've sent lower-league players off for calling me a cheat. That's the worst thing you can say, questioning an official's integrity. Yes, we'll get things wrong, and some officials might be incompetent, but we never go out there and think that if we do such and such, a team will win."

All referees have their own style. Some are martinets; some allow players as much leeway as possible. What unites them is horror at their own mistakes. "It makes you feel sick," Atkin says. He mentions a game where he got a couple of huge decisions wrong. "I can't watch that clip," he says. "You feel angry at yourself, embarrassed. There's the fear of going back to the club in a couple of months and having to walk in and smile. You want to talk about it – but you don't want to remind them you made that decision."

I ask what the game was. Atkin says he's so ashamed, he has wiped the teams' names from his mind. "But if you go on YouTube and search 'Ryan Atkin referee' it's there." I do. It's Staines Town v Welling United in 2013, and he's right, his decisions are horrible: a scything tackle is ignored; a striker who's blatantly pushed over gets booked for diving.

Ross says he obsesses about every borderline call. "I'll watch them 100 times on TV – my wife gets so fed up with it. I can't sleep on a Saturday night if I think I've got something wrong. Not only have you affected a match, but all your colleagues will see it and the press and pundits will tear you to shreds."

Yet the vast majority of decisions in every match are correct: at the very top of the game, barely one in a hundred will be wrong. When an official does make a mistake, the Premier League referees will discuss it at their fortnightly seminars and work out how to avoid repeating it.

It's the same down the leagues. But while the official close to the incident is better placed than the bloke 90 yards away with half an eye on his phone, still the officials get the blame for almost everything. "Sometimes players don't want to work with you," Atkin says. "The challenges fly in, but you're the one getting flak for not controlling the game. Well, what have I done to make you tackle like that? With those games, you can't wait for the 90 minutes to end."

Still, every official I speak to stresses how much they enjoy it. They talk of how fit it makes them (Arshe, who referees six games every weekend, says he averages 30,000 steps every match day), of the satisfaction of getting through difficult games and the bond that develops between officials. They walk on to the pitch together, and off the pitch together, always with their heads held high – even on those occasions when they need a police escort.

After what seems like an eternity, my 80 minutes running the line in Regent's Park are over. My son's team lost 8-1. I am cold and wet and cringing at the memory of completely misreading one situation, raising my flag to a player who was miles outside. "I'm sorry!" I shouted. "I got that wrong." The players, less than a third my age, roll their eyes in disgust. They turn to the referee: "He admitted he got that wrong!" one of them shouts. "Come on, ref!"

At the end of the game, I'm left out of the handshakes. No one says, "Thanks for the game, lino", not even my own son.

That afternoon, I go to Loftus Road to watch QPR play Norwich. I sit in my usual seat in the front row of the West Paddock, within easy shouting distance of the assistant referee. Around me come the usual shouts. "Oi, lino, help your f\*\*\*\*\*mate out, will you? He's shit." "Oi, lino, your hair get in your eyes? How come you didn't see that?" "Oi, lino, don't you know the f\*\*\*\*\*rules?"

I sit in silence. There's no way I'm ever criticising a referee again. At least, not until the next time. !

# Mac's Musings

I was reading an article recently regarding the online abuse received by women footballers, in particular Karen Carney of Chelsea and England who recently posted the vile remarks she had received on social media. The article in the Guardian went on to describe the abuse footballers in general often receive, particularly when playing away. Apparently the police are looking into the Karen Carney situation as there is the possibility that such comments would come under the Hate Crime Laws. Looking at the Crime Prosecution website it describes "hate crime" as range of criminal behaviour where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility towards the victims disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, or transgender identity. All of which are described as "protected characteristics". Hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and bullying as well as damage to property. The Law is currently under review by the Law Commission who are looking at whether offences driven by misogyny (prejudice against women) or misandry (hostility towards men) should be treated as hate crimes. Ageism and hatred towards alternative cultures, such as Goths or punks could also be included in the future.

Well, how about they include hostility and prejudice towards football officials? Forget the Respect Campaign. Make abuse to refs and assistants a crime and bung the lot (players, managers, spectators) in jail or pay a whopping fine. It might shut them up—but I doubt it.

## Mac



Dave "where's the beer" Cooper (on the right )receives his commemorative, engraved glass mug to celebrate 50 years as a member of Woking RA, from Bryan Jackson



Paul Gorringer (on the right) receives his "you could put someone's eye out with that" award for 25 years refereeing from Tim Lawrence, Surrey FA RDO

# PlumTree

Premier League International Cup  
Hertha Berlin SC vs Villareal  
Assistant Referee : Andy Bennett

FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round  
Barnet FC vs Braintree Town FC  
Assistant Referee : Andy Bennett

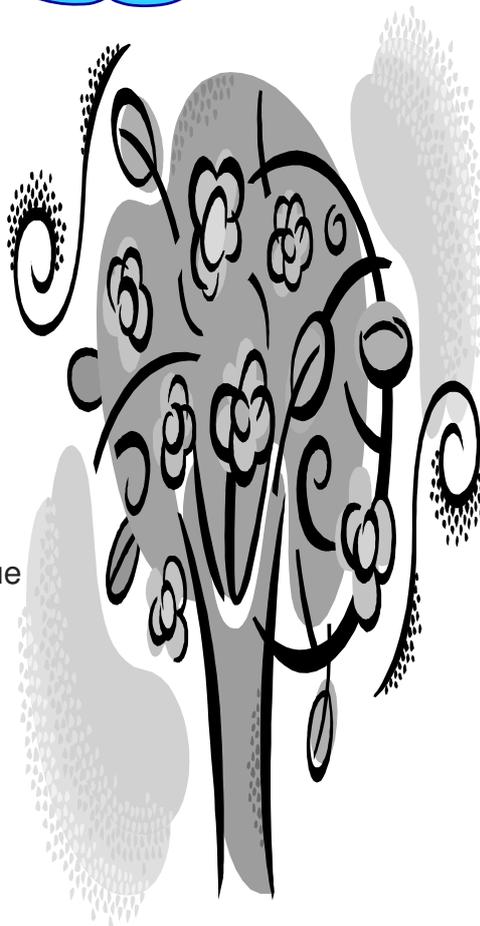
England Deaf National XI v Surrey University  
Referee : Stephen Brown

FA Academy Chelsea U16 v Arsenal U16.  
Referee : Stephen Brown

London F.A. Professional Development League  
Millwall u18 v Birmingham City u18  
Assistant referee, Paul Gorringe

Surrey FA Saturday Lower Junior County Cup  
Surrey Athletic First-v-Windlesham United A,  
Referee : Mac McBirnie

Surrey FA Saturday Junior County Cup  
Tongham v Old Thorntonians Third  
Referee : Mac McBirnie



## Dead Centre

A recently promoted young referee was on his way to his first stadium game as an assistant. He didn't yet drive but had arranged to get the train most of the way and then to be met at the station by the referee. As the train got close to his stop, he thought he'd better put on the tie he had brought with him - but he was feeling quite nervous and his fingers just wouldn't do what he wanted them to. His efforts had been watched with some interest by a sombre-faced gentleman sitting opposite who eventually offered to help.

"*Just lie down on the seat and I'll do it for you, no problem,*" he said. The youngster was understandably hesitant, but in his desperation, he dutifully obliged. To his surprise the knot was perfect.

"*How come you're able to do it so well?*" he asked ("... and why did I need to lie down?" he thought but didn't say)

*"I work in a morgue!"* came the reply.

*This appeared in Touchlines and I spotted it in The Chiltern Referee*

## MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

I began playing youth football locally in 1959, Sunday League football in 1963 and started refereeing in 1966. During this period, whilst the council were in the process of building new dressing rooms many were still basic and most pitches left much to be desired. Half of Blackheath had new dressing rooms and half old, where you changed in the Aircraft Hangar. This was a very big shed (barn) with no facilities at all, you just found a space and got changed. There was no security of any kind and the large doors were never shut. You could leave your clothes there if you wished but you would be lucky to find them there when you returned especially if they were any good. Usually you left them in a car or by the side of the pitch whilst you played.

When I started playing Sunday football in 1963 all our home games were played on Peckham Rye. It had a couple of pitches in the park, one big and flat, the other on the side of a hill, and the rest were on the common, where we usually played. For twelve shillings and sixpence (62.5p) you got goal posts which players had to put up themselves, a crossbar, pitch and changing accommodation. Goal nets cost extra but, as the League rules didn't require them, nobody bothered. The crossbar was spring loaded and slotted onto the posts. In one game, the goalkeeper thought he was being clever. He jumped and pulled the crossbar down as the ball sailed over the goal and it sprung off the posts and fell on top of him.

The changing rooms were in a stockade, one dressing room for each pitch where twenty-two players and a referee were supposed to change. The only running water, which was cold, was supplied by a tap into a metal trough which ran the length of the stockade and would freeze during the winter.

As a referee I never used the changing room, in fact, I never went into the stockade, as experience had taught me that being in the stockade, let alone a changing room, with twenty-two players especially after a contentious game was not the place to be. Things weren't helped by the fact that there was no electricity either so changing there in the twilight after a game on a dingy afternoon following a late kick off or extra time was not a good idea. I always went already changed and left my clothes by the side of the pitch. I still remembered that early in my playing days, although I was not there, a referee had been assaulted and left in the trough after a game.

Whilst the pitches in the park were in reasonable condition those on the common left a lot to be desired. One pitch had a large tree growing alongside it by the half way line and the tree's roots grew under the pitch. In poor weather conditions the roots would protrude from the ground and many an unsuspecting player would trip over them as he raced down the wing. Another pitch was squeezed into the corner of the common. One end of the pitch was a couple yards away from the pavement of a major road and every time the ball went behind the goal you took your life in your hands dodging between cars and buses retrieving it. A few yards from the touchline there was a tarmac path running the length of the pitch which turned inwards cutting across the top of the other end of the pitch. Consequently, the corner arc and some of the pitch were under tarmac.

The weirdest pitch I played on was at Brockwell Park at Brixton. It was built over a hill and from the bottom goal you could only see the top of the goal at the other end of the pitch. Defending the bottom goal, you would see your team gradually disappear as they went over the hill on the attack and then grow larger as play came back down the hill. It could be a frightening sight, seeing all the players charging down the hill towards you.

As a referee, I sometimes used to go to Hackney Marshes, where there were over seventy pitches, in the East End of London to referee London FA Junior cup matches. Each pitch was about 3 feet from the pitch behind it, goal line to goal line, and 3 feet from the pitch beside it touchline to touchline. The pitches were slightly off-centre to each other and the beginning of one goal would be about 3 feet from the end of the goal on the pitch behind it. Being a goalkeeper was a dangerous occupation as you could get hit in the back from a shot from the pitch behind you, and as a referee it was easy to give goals that went into the wrong goal. Often at corners players would tumble into the goal on the pitch behind them and it was impossible to have two corners on adjacent pitches at the same time. With so little distance between the pitches there was no space for nets. It was easy to get mixed up with pitches both as a linesman or referee and it was not unusual for club linesmen to collide. Many players did not belong to a regular team, there were so many games going on that invariably many teams were short of players, therefore players just took their kit over to the "barracks" and wait for somebody to ask them if they wanted a game. The same applied to referees. If your game wasn't played for some reason, you could easily find another one.

One game I remember involved a team of bookmakers called Tic-Tacs. Being a clever sort of person, I said to the captain, "Are you known as Tic-Tacs because you know your tactics backwards". I thought that was funny at the time but it went down like a lead balloon.

I enjoyed my early years of refereeing in London, in my first three full seasons averaging 75 games a season, because there was such a variety of teams and situations. I refereed deaf and dumb teams, ethnic teams who spoke no English and did everything through an interpreter, schoolboys to veterans, stadiums to Hackney marshes.

It was the dawn of Sunday League football which had only been officially approved in 1961. Things were pretty basic but it was what we were used to, we accepted it readily, and couldn't wait for Sunday to come.

This was grass roots football.

**Tony Murphy**

**They said it !**



"As soon as it dawned on me that we were short of players who combined skill and commitment, I should have forgotten all about trying to play more controlled , attractive football and settled for a real bastard of a team "

*Don Revie reflects on his time with England*

## Dealing with Dissent

*With the introduction of sin bins for dissent I thought this article spotted in The Chiltern Referee might be appropriate. My question is "would you "sin bin" a player sooner than you would have issued a caution?" Mac*

All referees, at whichever level they officiate, will have experienced dissent in a variety of forms. Dissent varies from an expression of frustration or disappointment through to deliberate or sometimes prolonged challenges to the referee's authority. Sometimes it is genuinely spur of the moment but sometimes it is part of a deliberate attempt to undermine a referee and, perhaps, the whole referee team.

### THE STEPPED APPROACH

#### STEP 1. A Quite Word

You educate the player that what they have said is unacceptable and if they persist, they will face further action

#### STEP 2. Involve the captain or senior member of the team

Explain to them that this is the second time you have spoken to the player and that as a senior player they have a collective responsibility for their team

#### STEP 3. Use of sanctions in accordance with the Laws of the Game

Remember that you feel the dissent, by word or action is beyond your tolerance level, you can come in whatever step is appropriate. The sooner you act on any form of dissent and set your tolerance levels, will determine the way the game develops.

We need to understand fully what dissent is, its impact on the game and how you control elements of dissent. It will also offer some techniques to use which may help avoid or reduce dissent in your games.

**Mary Hamer** (Level 6 referee from Beds) believes that dissent, although declining following the FA's Respect Programme, is **still prevalent at grass-roots level. Dissent is very diverse** and can range from something as simple as a disapproving glance or petulant stomping of the feet to a tirade of verbal abuse.

We have all experienced dissent as we find ourselves in a decision-based environment. It is important to remember that, under no circumstances, should we tolerate any form of dissent.

Dissent can be dealt with in many ways. Sometimes a quiet word is sufficient to quieten the player. However, where an act of dissent has questioned or undermined your authority, this needs to be dealt with in accordance to the Laws of the Game. (see Stepped Approach).

Preventative refereeing can be an excellent weapon in the referee's armoury by proactively diffusing the situation before it starts. This allows you to form a responsive relationship with the players and can be something to consider to prevent an act of dissent. Considering your proximity to play can also be a vital tool in reducing dissent, as players seem to believe or accept a decision from a referee who is closer to play than from one who is more distant.

Despite your best efforts in preventing dissent, ultimately at some time during a game we are going to be faced with it and you need to be prepared to act accordingly.

**Sam Allison** (Level 4 referee Wilts) offered the following comments. Following the implementation of the FA's Respect Programme the issue of dissent towards a match official in the professional game has been highlighted to both referees and players alike.

Referees and players are now more aware than ever before that their actions (or lack of) are closely scrutinised by the media and watching public and that it is important to set the correct standards of behaviour and take action when appropriate.

At the team sheet exchange with both team captains and the management personnel in attendance, we have an opportunity to reaffirm the Respect Programme and ask each captain's assistance in the management of team mates who are proving difficult. Getting to know each captain's first name, and striking a rapport with them at this point (without being too time-consuming), often proves to be useful in the subsequent management of any dissent team mates.

Following the introduction of the Respect Programme, it is now a much more common occurrence in the professional game to see the captain of a team usher his team mates away to speak one to one with the referee and understand why a particular decision had been made. Consequently, the FA's disciplinary charges for teams surrounding match officials have fallen significantly in recent times.

However, this does not work every time, and on occasions when a player dissents I am conscious of the need to deal effectively with dissent that is visual to both spectators and the media.

In my experience, when dealing with dissent it is vital to take action at the first opportunity although this does not necessarily mean issuing a caution. Clear and firm action at the first instance is key to sending a message to all players and management that such undermining actions are unacceptable.

Dissent can either be verbal or by action. I will issue a caution for dissent much more readily if it is dissent by action as it is obvious to everyone that the player is trying to undermine either mine or my colleagues' authority. Examples of clear dissent by action are:

- Running to my Assistant Referee to question a decision
- Running a significant distance to question my decision
- Throwing the ball into the ground or kicking the ball away
- Sarcastically then applauding a decision

Clear and persistent refusal to acknowledge a request

Verbal dissent is more difficult to deal with for two reasons:

1. Due to stadia noise, quite often unless you are directly looking at the player, it is difficult to hear and/or distinguish what is said.
2. Challenges to the referee's authority tend to be subtler and questioning rather than clear dissent.

If the player is persistently questioning decisions, and generally becoming a pain, then it is vital for your credibility to highlight this as it may not be immediately obvious to other players, management and spectators.

It is therefore important to raise the profile of this player by isolating him, issuing a public rebuke (together with the use of the captain) so that if he persists, the caution is not a surprise to anyone and therefore avoids a potentially challenging management situation.

*(This first appeared in "Refereeing" September 2013)*

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## Adie's Bean and Gone and Got Infected

Rather disturbingly I have received a few e-mails from Referees concerning the lack of Respect directed at them. I have spent quite a lot of time on the phone to them reassuring them that if they were not excellent Match Officials I would not be appointing them to games. I am justly proud of all the Referees in the SCILW and the G&WAFL and I hope all the Match Officials would contact me after a game if they feel there is a problem or even to chat about the game. Obviously I intend to nip this in the bud and will be addressing the clubs in the SCILW this week with my concerns.

Unhappily last week I contracted an infection in my leg that ended up somewhat painful. Two visits to the surgery, one on the Wednesday – got antibiotics, second one on Friday as it had not really improved – more antibiotics. Saturday morning saw me with no less than 10 pills lined up in front of me (some for Hashimoto's syndrome and diabetes etc). I am starting to rattle with the poxy things now!!!!

Enough bad news. The Cyril West Trophy commences on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November covering both the Saturday Leagues. This was a huge success last season and we hope to build on that. County Cups are being played at present as well as League Cup Competitions so there is plenty of Football for the clubs. On days I am not officiating I am trying to get around and see a few Referees – I am not there to check up on you, just to ensure you are enjoying your games.

An interesting situation I observed the other week when the goalkeeper came out of his are and intercepted the ball with his hand. The attacking side were adamant he had to be dismissed. The manager was positive his player 'might have been able to get the ball'. Aha! Magic word – "might." I pointed out to him that it had to be an *obvious* goal-scoring opportunity. The Referee issued a yellow card and awarded a free kick. Both the assessor and I agreed he made the correct decision. Now there is one for the books. Adie and an assessor agree – wonders never cease!!!!

My runner beans have finally run their race but have done well as we have been eating them until mid-October. Staggering them seemed to work well this year. We have had plenty of apples this autumn, Cox's Orange Pippin and James Grieve did particularly well. No late frosts in our valley so the blossom was not affected and fruit has been bountiful in the Freeman garden.

Keep up your availability, not just for me but all the Leagues.

**Adie**



## Willy the 'Red Card' Ref



### Ever Changing Laws

Match: Red Card Rovers -v- Garden Green Wanderers  
 Cup: Sunday Park League (North) Division Three  
 Kit: Usual all black kit  
 Weather: It's getting colder

The laws have changed considerably over the last few years and to be honest I feel the changes have made the laws far too confusing. For example the word '*intent*' was removed as it was felt the referee could not prove whether or not a player had actually '*intended*' to commit a foul challenge. Instead the laws now uses the word '*deliberate*' and allows the referee to decide if the player '*deliberately*' intended to foul an opponent. The wording has changed but surely they are the same difference.

Have you noticed that the Laws of the Game show many photos in the book but they are all from top level matches? Most referees are at grass roots level so why can't they have a photo of me showing a red card to a player at the local park?

The photos show the referees in various coloured tops but most local counties only permit the traditional all black kit.....I would love to have an orange top.....*what colour would you prefer?*

One of the new laws for this season is that '*biting*' an opponent is a red card offence. Really! When was the last time you sent a player off for biting? Never! *Exactly.....my case rests!*

Anyhow back to my match and Rovers are attacking the Wanderers goal. The Rovers player was clearly fouled by the Wanderers number four but managed to regain his balance and continue to run towards the opponent's goal. The challenge was in my opinion a reckless challenge and warranted a yellow card but being the very good referee that I am I played '*advantage*'.

Well I say that I played '*advantage*' but I did not actually make any signals either by my arms or voice. Anyhow my '*advantage*' allowed the forward to continue his run. The Rovers player then evaded another challenge by jumping over the player as the opponent attempted a sliding tackle. This was all happening so quickly again I did not have the opportunity to inform the players that I had again played '*advantage*'. The forward had done well by his actions and I knew that even if no contact is made I can still award a free kick. The law clearly states '*To kick or attempt to kick*'. Again I decided to play '*advantage*' and allow play to continue as by now the forward was in the opposing penalty area with a good possibility to score.

Again I have to admit that I did not make any arm movements nor tell the players that I was playing offside.

The forward must have taken five steps in the penalty area when the same number four from the Wanderers cluttered into the forward and both the players crashed to the ground. I felt no effort was made to play the ball and that the challenge was a reckless one and again warranted a yellow card.

I blew my whistle and pointed to the penalty mark.

Wanderers were none too pleased and they argued the following –

- ◆ Rovers should have a free kick outside the penalty area where the *first* contact had been made
- ◆ Rovers should have a free kick outside the penalty area where the *second* contact was made. After all no 'advantage' was indicated by me!
- ◆ If I had not awarded a foul for the first two challenges what difference was the third challenge

They did have a point as no one was aware that '*advantage*' had actually been played.

Then I thought it had to be obvious because my whistle had not been used and the 'laws of the game' do not actually stipulate that the referee must use their voice to shout '*Play on, advantage*'.

I was sure that the penalty was the right decision but then I decided to show a yellow card to the Wanderers number four for the first reckless challenge which was committed *outside* of the penalty area. This was followed by another yellow card for the second reckless challenge inside the penalty area which was then proceeded by a red card! This did not seem to be a popular decision!

- ◆ Was this the *right* decision?
- ◆ Can a player be cautioned if an '*advantage*' has been played?
- ◆ Can '*advantage*' be applied if the referee has given no signals to the players either by arm signals or by voice?
- ◆ Should the player be sent off for his two reckless challenges?

Well, what would you do?

*The more you run it is more fun, so do your bit to stay fit!*

### **Willy the 'Red Card' Referee**

*Interestingly this was the also the situation and question posed by Andy B at last month's meeting!" Mac*





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## What Would You Do? Answers to October Issue

**Q1.** You are in the final minute of a no-score bore-draw. Suddenly a silly challenge results in a penalty to the home side and a chance for them to win the game. Their main striker - who has been a pain all game, who you cautioned for dissent early in the second half - places the ball, steps back and begins his run-up. As he shapes to strike the ball, he makes a clear feint - pausing in mid-movement in an attempt to confuse the keeper. However, the keeper has already charged forwards off his line and crosses the 6-yd line even as the striker eventually hits the ball, which clips the bar and sails out of play. Your watch bleeps for full time. The striker complains that the keeper's early charge has caused him to miss. The keeper claims that he didn't move until the striker paused. What would you do?

**A1.** Law 14 states "once the ref has signalled for a penalty kick to be taken, the kick must be taken. If, before the ball is in play, one of the following occurs: if both the keeper and kicker commit an offence at the same time: if the kick is missed or saved, the kick is retaken and both players cautioned. So, the striker gets a second yellow and leaves on a red. The keeper is cautioned. Someone else will need to take the penalty. Make sure to remind the keeper that a recurrence of his actions will see him sent off for a second yellow card. Restart with an indirect free kick.

**Q2.** You have reached the 30-min mark in a tetchy game, with players from both sides complaining loudly every time any sort of contact is made. Reds have a corner and a player places the ball on the edge of the corner arc. Your AR gives you the thumbs up - but a Blue defender runs to within a few yards of the ball before turning in your direction and complaining that the ball is outside the arc. The Red player deliberately kicks the ball into the back of the Blue player - without using any excessive force - collects the rebound and dribbles into the box. The Blue player screams loudly and collapses to the floor holding his back. Other players complain angrily. What would you do?

**A2.** Law 17 states "If a player, while correctly taking a corner kick, intentionally kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referee allows play to continue". No offence has been committed (except by the blue defender encroaching within 9,15m) so allow play to continue - but be alert to any action by blue defenders who may be expecting you to stop play. If you are sure the blue defender is play-acting, ignore him until the next stoppage, at which point you may feel that a caution for simulation is in order.

**Q3.** In the last game of the season, the away side need a 5-goal win to stay up. But when they reach half time 2-0 down, the owner storms in and sacks the manager. Players from both sides are outraged - and in the second half the home side deliberately allow their opponents to walk the ball in. The score reaches 2-8. What would you do?

**A3.** There is little the referee can do. All he can do is tell both clubs that he will report the conduct to the relevant authorities.

**Answers to October Issue continued**

**Q4.** In stoppage time you award a direct free kick to the home side. The away side, clinging to a 1-0 lead, bring on a sub. You signal for the kick to be taken. But as the ball flies into the net you spot the subbed player has not completely left the FoP. What would you do?

**A4.** Apologise for restarting play too soon and award a retake. Also caution the player who was subbed if you feel he was deliberately trying to delay the restart by walking off too slowly.

**What Would You Do****Question 1.**

Not long before kick off the away team's kit man discovers that someone has vandalised the players' names on all their shirts - and has done the same to their spares. There is uproar. What do you do?

**Question 2.**

A Blue player launches a terrible red card tackle - but suffers a horrible injury in the process. As you try to control the brawl that follows, the injured player is taken off by medics before you can show the red card - and your fourth official waves through a substitution onto the FoP. What do you do?

**Question 3.**

A defender jumps up and down in front of a Red forward who is trying to take a quick throw-in. So, the attacker throws the ball at him, collects the rebound, controls the ball, races away and scores. What would you do?

**Question 4.**

A sprinting winger loses his footing and it looks as if he will tumble out of play, until, that is, he crashes into your assistant. As your colleague is sent flying, the winger regains his balance and whips over a cross to a Red striker who looks suspiciously offside. He heads it into the goal. What would you do?

**Question 5.**

A player has left the FoP (with your permission) to change his boots during a stoppage. While he is still off the FoP, play restarts and his team mount a promising attack. Even as a cross is about to be played into the area, one of the defenders is pointing back down field and screaming at you that the player has re-entered without permission and the game should be stopped. A quick glance shows the player is indeed back on the field and, although a fair distance away, is making every effort to run forward and get involved in the attack. What would you do?

*(Ed. Some questions were taken from "In the referee's opinion" in Touchlines - Sutton RS, and from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion in The Observer). Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee*

# WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION www.TheFA.com	Wembley Stadium, Wembley, London HA9 0WS 0800 169 1863
FA Refereeing Department National Managers "name"@theFA.com	Neale Barry ; Head of Senior Referee Development
Surrey County Football Association www.surreyfa.com  Referee Development Officer	Meadowbank Football Ground, Mill Lane, Dorking Surrey, RH4 1DX 01372 384190  Tim Lawrence 01372 387094
The Referees' Association www.the-ra.org contact@the-ra.org Tel 024 7642 0360	1c Bagshaw Close Ryton on Dunsmore Warwickshire CV8 3EX
Surrey County Referees Association Honorary Secretary	Brian Reader 01483 480651 ramblingref@gmail.com
Guildford & Woking Alliance League Referees' Secretary	Adrian Freeman 01483 894351 / 07814 516911 A.freeman@homecall.co.uk
Surrey County Intermediate League (Western) Referees' Secretary	Adrian Freeman 01483 894351 / 07814 516911 A.freeman@homecall.co.uk
Suburban League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Dave Goater dave.gosubrefs@outlook.com
Combined Counties League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Philip Nash 07951 415046 assistantreferees@combinrdcountiesleague.co.uk
Southern Youth League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Nick Clark
Camberley & District Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Richard Harris 07708 813978 (m), <a href="mailto:richard@harris-net.co.uk">richard@harris-net.co.uk</a>
Surrey & Hants Border Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Bob Dick 07803 007233 bobmdick@btinternet..com
Farnham & District Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Colin Barnett 01252 328953 cbarnett5978184@aol.com
Surrey Elite Intermediate Football League Referees' Secretary	Richard Brum 07956 185602 <a href="mailto:richard.brum@sky.com">richard.brum@sky.com</a>
Surrey Youth League Referees' Secretary	www.wsyl.org.uk Alan Wiggins 01932 789376 alan.wiggins@wsyl.org.uk
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